

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pulsed, mode-locked, picosecond laser having a solid-state laser medium, a saturable absorber (SA), and a passive negative feedback (PNF) element. The SA is “slow,” having an absorption recovery time which is longer than a desired duration of an output pulse. The SA and the PNF element together mode-lock the laser to produce an output pulse or pulses of a given duration. The position of the SA along the beam path and the orientation of the SA with respect to the beam path can be varied to vary the output pulse duration over a wide range.

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